

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3097

USIAC

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJ: GOC SUSPENDS LARGEST-CIRCULATION DAILY, ORDERS EDITOR
DETAINED

REF: SANTIAGO 3058 (STATE SERIES)

1. SUMMARY: LARGEST-CIRCULATION DAILY "LA TERCERA DE LA HORA" WAS ORDERED JULY 12 TO SUSPEND PUBLICATION FOR SIX DAYS FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF STATE INTERNAL SECURITY LAW BECAUSE IT CARRIED A PAID STATEMENT BY ULTRA-RIGHTIST "PATRIA Y LIBERTAD" ("FATHERLAND AND FREEDOM"), EXCERPTS OF WHICH PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY UNIDAD PAOPULAR (UP) PAPERS. DETENTION ORDER ISSUED AGAINST EDITOR.

2. FOLLOWING A COMPLAINT FILED BY GOC, AN APPELLATE COURT JUDGE JULY 12 ORDERED SUSPENSION OF PUBLICATION FOR SIX DAYS OF THE LARGEST-CIRCULATION (ESTIMATED 225-250,000 DAILY, 325-350,000 SUNDAY) INDEPENDENT AND "PLURALISTIC" TABLOID "LA TERCERA." THE SPECIFIC CHARGE WAS THAT "LA TERCERA" HAD PRINTED A FULL-PAGE PAID ADVERTISEMENT THAT DAY CONTAINING FULL TEXT OF A STATEMENT SIGNED BY FIVE "PATRIA Y LIBERTAD" LEADERS EXILED TO ECUADOR AFTER JUNE 29 EVENTS (SEPTELS).

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3. PRO-UP DAILES (COMMUNIST "EL SIGLO" AND SOCIALIST "ULTIMA

HORA" ON JULY 10 AND PRO-COMMUNIST "PURO CHILE" IN TWO SEPARATE PLACES ON JULY 11 HAD CARRIED EXCERPTS OF STATEMENT, AND MARXIST "CLARIN" CARRIED FULL TEXT WITH FACSIMILE OF SIGNATURES JULY 10. "EL SIGLO" JULY 13 REPORTS SUSPENSION OF "LA TERCERA" WITH FACSIMILE OF ADVERTISEMENT AS IT APPEARED IN LATTER NEWSPAPER.

4. INDEPENDENT-CONSERVATIVE "EL MERCURIO" AND ITS AFFILIATE "LAS ULTIMAS NOTICIAS" CARRY STATEMENT BY "LA TERCERA" UNIONS WHICH STATE THAT THEY RESPECT AND WILL THUS FOLLOW SUSPENSION ORDER, WHICH THEY CONSIDER "VIOLATION OF AUTHENTIC LIBERTY OF MEDIA OF EXPRESSION." STATEMENT CONCLUDES WITH EXPRESSION OF UNIONS' "MOST ENERGETIC PROTEST...(AND OUR CONFIDENCE THAT THROUGH LEGAL MEANS THAT WILL BE OVERCOME." (EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ALBERTO GUERRERO HAS FOLLOWED POLICY OF CODDLING PAPER'S UNIONS AND BEFORE BECOMING EDITOR HEADED ONE OF UNIONS HIMSELF.)

5. GUERRERO'S WIFE TOLD IO AT MID-MORNING JULY 13 ORDER ISSUED TO DETAIN HIM. SHE EXPECTED HIM PICKED UP "AT ANY MOMENT." MRS GUERRERO SAID HE HAS NOT SOUNDED OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RAPID LIFTING OF SUSPENSION ORDER. SAME LAWYER WHO DEFENDED "EL MERCURIO" IN SIMILAR SITUATION IN JUNE NOW DEFENDING "LA TERCERA."

6. COMMENT: "LA TERCERA," WHICH HAS LONG MAINTAINED "INDEPENDENT" IMAGE, HAS MORE AND MORE TAKEN ISSUE WITH AND CRITICIZED GOC AND PRESIDENT ALLENDE HIMSELF ON SUCH RECENT ISSUES AS PRESS FREEDOM, ALLENDE GOVERNMENT'S ALLEGED VIOLATION OF "STATE OF LAW" AND UP QUARRELS WITH JUDICIARY. ITS EDITORIAL PAGE CARRIES SIGNED COLUMNS BY WRITERS ACROSS FULL POLITICAL SPECTRUM, OFTEN WITH EXTREME LEFT AND EXTREME RIGHT ON SAME PAGE, THUS MAINTAINING "PLURALISTIC" IMAGE. GUERRERO TOLD IO WHEN HE BECAME EDITOR IN 1972 THAT NEWSPAPER'S LINE WOULD SLOWLY BUT SURELY BECOME "HARDER" AGAINST UP. TWO WEEKS AGO, IN ANSWER TO IO'S OBSERVATION THAT "LA TERCERA" EDITORIALS HAD INDEED BEEN HARDER ON UP, GUERRERO SAID, "I TOLD YOU SO. AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP ON GETTING HARDER." CONSIDERING LARGE CIRCULATION AND POLITICALLY "PLURALISTIC" IMAGE OF "LA TERCERA" ALLENDE GOVERNMENT, IN SUSPENDING NEWSPAPER, MAY BE CREATING MORE PROBLEMS FOR ITSELF THAN ANY GAINS IT MIGHT MAKE AMONG ITS MOST EXTREMEIST FOLLOWERS. ANOTHER INGREDIENT IS CLOSE PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP OF PUBLISHER GERMAN PICO CANAS, NOW LIVING IN SPAIN BUT CURRENTLY IN CONFIDENTIAL

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SANTIAGO IN CONNECTION WITH "LA TERCERA'S" TWENTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JULY 7. PICO CANAS SET ORIGINAL LINE OF NOT OFFENDING ALLENDE GOVERNMENT BUT HAS ALLOWED GUERRERO FULL REIN DURING HIS ABSENCE. PUBLISHER, WHO MOSTLY INTERESTED IN NEWSPAPER'S FINANCIAL SUCCESSES, COULD REACT EITHER BY RESTRAINING GUERRERO'S EDITORIAL POLICIES OR GO SO FAR AS TO REMOVE GUERRERO, AN EXTREME MOVE WE DO NOT EXPECT. MORE LIKELY, IN VIEW OF PUBLISHERS' S PERSONAL AFFECTION FOR AND TRUST IN EDITOR, IS THAT

PICO CANAS WILL HAVE AVUNCULAR TALK WITH GUERRERO AND SUGGEST
GREATER CAUTION IN FUTURE, AS INDEED NEWSPAPER HAS GENERALLY
OBSERVED IN PAST.
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